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Letter from Ruby Willis, Wellesley, Massachusetts,
to Dr. and Mrs. William H. Willis, Reading,
Massachusetts, 1907 March 10

Ruby Willis

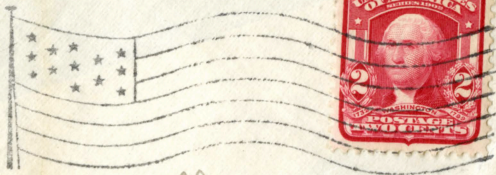
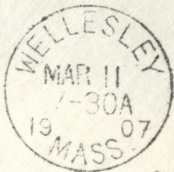
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Mr. and Mrs. William H. Willis,
|
Reading,
Massachusetts.



Mar. 10, 1907.

My dear ones at home, -

Though I only came away Friday morning, it seems like quite a good while. I got back here in plenty of time for my classes and managed to get through them somehow - how, I don't know, for I hadn't studied hardly a bit. And since then I've been as busy as busy could be.

First of all, I want to write to Papa especially and thank him for the splendid time he gave me

Thursday night. I did have just a dandy
time and felt very grown up. I very much
wish I could come home for the Masonic
night this week, but I don't believe I
can unless Mame. Schumann-Heink
sends word she can't come again, for
I don't know when I could hear her
again. Anyway I had a grand time
last week, and I'll try to make that
last for awhile. Vacation comes the
25th, two weeks from next Thursday—
that is a whole day earlier than we
expected to get out, but the Academic
Council has decided to let us out then
because Friday the 29th is Good Friday.
Isn't that splendid?

To-day has been quite an exciting day for me. Dr. Watson of Liverpool (Jan Maclaren, author of "Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush") preached this morning, and, as we knew that chapel would be crowded, Mary & I went to chapel about quarter-past ten, so we got very good seats. The people that came late were not so lucky; the chapel was filled, a good many stood up, some sat on the stairs out in the vestibule, and a great many went away because they couldn't get seats. There were a great many people from out-of-town. And I don't believe anyone could have been disappointed in him. He was, I think, all in all considered, the greatest man I have ever heard; he is very tall and large, with a plain face, but one that has a great deal of strength & sweetness in it. Well, his sermon was quite long, so it was quite late when the service was over; I was to go to dinner at Moanett with Alice Porter, the girl who has asked me four times before & I have had to refuse each time, and something happened this time, so I almost had to give up going. For, on looking around before the service began, I had caught sight of Miss



Walcott, and so I slipped out as soon as service was over to speak to her. I talked to her on the way to the door, and I was just going out when whom did I see, but Miss Mary Bourne. I was very much surprised, of course, and went back to see her. She wanted to see Miss Sage, the Gen. Secretary of the Christian Association, and so I waited with her. Meanwhile I saw Alice Porter & got hold of her. When most of the people had gone, we moved up to where Miss Sage was standing, and

while we were talking to her, Miss Pendleton, the Dean, whom I adore so, came up to us, and asked us to come & meet Dr. Watson; of course it never would have happened if we hadn't been with Miss Sage. So we went up, and Miss Pendleton introduced us to him and he shook hands with each of us. You don't know how proud I felt when Miss Pendleton introduced me, to think that she knew my name, without asking! She is certainly the most wonderful person about remembering people & their names, but it does give one such a pleasant feeling to think that out of 1200 girls she knows

you individually. Well, meanwhile I was pondering
in my mind what I'd do with Miss Bourne, for
I wanted to ask her to dinner terribly but I couldn't
for I had given away my place at Freeman, &
of course I couldn't take her to Hoanett. I
explained as best I could, & I hope Miss Sage
asked her, but I doubt it. To continue with
my tale, we were standing there talking to
Dr. Watson, and Miss Pendleton stooped over
toward me, & ~~said~~ asked me if I didn't live
at Freeman. I said I did, & then she asked
me if I would be willing to come over & ask
Miss Mary Caswell to come to dinner with her.
Of course a request from Miss P. is a
command in the opinion of any student, so
I could say nothing but "Certainly"; and
start out. This was about ten minutes before
one, and they have dinner at Hoanett at one.
Imagine my feelings! Luckily I found Mary
Thompson right outside the chapel door, & I
gave her the message for Miss Caswell. Then
carefully avoiding the Dean, I said good-by
to Miss Bourne and started well-well for
Hoanett. We were only a few minutes late.



and several minutes people were later than we, so I didn't care very much. I had an awfully good time down there, but I was a little bit worried for fear Miss Caswell ~~was~~ hadn't gotten the message. But she had, however, as I found when I got home, so it came out all right. But don't you think that was quite a series of complications to run into in the space of about ten minutes? I am going to invite Miss Bourne to come out to church some Sunday & then stay to

dinner, and go & make some calls afterward, for she knows Miss Todd, & two other Vassar graduates from among the Faculty.

It is quite late now; I've been to vespers and feel as if I'd had quite a strenuous day. Sunday here usually is a strenuous time, but I love it just the same.

I think I'd better stop now and go to bed. O, thank you papa, for your check, and you don't need to be shocked to think you forgot, for you would have heard from me very speedily if you had needed it. Good-night, now, with lots of love to all my dear family, from
Your loving daughter & sister,
Ruby.

Mamma dear, will you see if you can find my calling card plate? I can't find it here & I need some cards very much. Also, I am sending my laundry, & will you see that I have it by Friday if possible, for I am nearly destitute of clean clothes. With love,
Ruby.